

Amendments to the Specification

*Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:*

A1  
In the example of FIG. 1, nodes N2, N3, N4, N9, N10, N12, and N13 are cooperating nodes, also referred to as cooperative nodes. In this example, as an initial matter cooperating nodes N2, N3, N4, N9, N10, N12, N13 each have information about one or two of the other cooperating nodes. Specifically, node N2 has information about N3 (shown in FIG. 1 as arrow I2-3), N3 has information about N2 (I3-2) and N4 (I4-2), N4 has information about N9 (I4-9), N9 has information about N10 (I9-10), N10 has information about N12 (I10-12) and N13 (I10-13), N12 has information about N13 (I12-13) and N13 has information about N12 (I13-12). A resource discovery method employed by the cooperating nodes N2, N3, N4, N9, N10, N12, N13 allows the cooperating nodes to discover each other, and provides each cooperating node with cooperating node information about the other cooperating nodes. The method steps are repeatedly performed by each of the cooperating nodes N2, N3, N4, N9, N10, N12, N13 so that each of the cooperating nodes N2, N3, N4, N9, N10, N12, N13 eventually learns about the other cooperating nodes N2, N3, N4, N9, N10, N12, N13.

*Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:*

A2  
This concludes the first round from the point of view of the first node 1. In the next round, the first node 1 repeats the steps just described. That is, the first node 1 chooses a node to communicate with, which is most likely, but not necessarily, a node other than the just previously chosen node 2. For example, the first node 1 may choose a different second node from a plurality of nodes 3, 4, and communicate information with that the selected different second node-3. This method is sometimes referred to as the

"name dropper" method, because, by rough analogy, each node tells each other node about the nodes for which they have information.

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*Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:*

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A3 | This concludes the first round. In the next round, the first node 1 repeats the steps just described. In the next round, the first node 1 again chooses a node to communicate with, which is most likely a node other than the just previously chosen node 2. For example, the first node 1 may choose a second node from a plurality of nodes 3, 4, and communicate information with that the selected other node-3.

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*Please replace the Abstract on page 35 with the following amended Abstract:*

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should be on  
separate page  
NE | In distributed networks of cooperating nodes, it is useful to perform resource discovery in a manner that is efficient but that also minimizes communication complexity. A system and method in which nodes in a network efficiently are provided with information about the presence of, and other information about, other nodes in the network provides tangible benefits. In general, in one aspect, a system and method according to the invention features a distributed method for communicating information among a plurality of nodes. ~~The method includes choosing, by a first node, one second node from information about nodes that the first node is aware of.~~ The method further includes communicating from the first node to the second node information about the first node and nodes that the first node is aware of. The method further includes adding or merging, by the second node, the information about the first node and nodes that the first node is aware of with information about nodes that the second node is aware of. ~~The method further includes each of the plurality of cooperating nodes repeating these steps.~~